



NEWS RELEASE

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United States Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan announced today, August 7, 2003, that on August 6, 2003, two residents of Northridge, California, and a corporation based in North Hollywood, California, were indicted by a federal grand jury in Pittsburgh on charges of violating federal obscenity laws.

The ten-count indictment named Extreme Associates, Inc., of 11133 Vanowen, Suite D, North Hollywood, California, Robert Zicari, a/k/a Rob Black, age 29, and Janet Romano, a/k/a Lizzie Borden, age 26, both of 12065 Eddleston Drive, Northridge, California.

According to the indictment, Zicari and Romano, through Extreme Associates, Inc., distributed obscene films entitled "Forced Entry - Directors Cut," "Cocktails 2 - Directors Cut," and "Extreme Teen #24" to the Western District of Pennsylvania. The indictment alleges that each film was mailed to an address in Western Pennsylvania. Extreme Associates, Inc. also distributed obscene videotapes and DVDs to wholesale distributors throughout the United States, including to a distributor in the Western District of Pennsylvania. The defendants are also charged with transmitting six obscene video clips over the internet through

their web site, www.extremeassociates.com. The six video clips are entitled "valeriejospit," "jewel," "PZ Summer Breeze," "dp_gangbang_7_gen_X," "miacum," and "analaspirations1." They range in length from 37 seconds to two minutes, 54 seconds.

In 1973, the United States Supreme Court stated in Miller v. California that materials are obscene if they satisfy a three part test:

- (1) The average person, applying contemporary community standards, finds that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest; and
- (2) The average person, applying contemporary community standards, finds that the material depicts sexual conduct in a patently offensive manner; and
- (3) A reasonable person, viewing the material as a whole, finds that the material lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

The indictment alleges that the charged materials are obscene under the Miller test, and that the distribution of these materials is illegal.

A search warrant issued in April 2003 for the business premises of Extreme Associates, Inc. has been unsealed by a federal court in Los Angeles. The affidavit describes in detail the sexual activity shown in Forced Entry and the other two charged films. According to those documents, Extreme Associates, Inc. was the subject of a Frontline documentary on PBS television which aired nationwide on February 7, 2002. That program showed (non-sexually

explicit) portions of the filming of the video, "Forced Entry," which depicts the brutal rapes and murders of several women.

Ms. Buchanan stated that "The lack of enforcement of federal obscenity laws during the 1990s has led to a proliferation of obscenity throughout the United States, such as the violent and degrading material charged in this case. Distributors of obscenity may be prosecuted under federal law in any district in the country where their products are sold."

United States Attorney Buchanan, Assistant United States Attorney Stephen R. Kaufman, and Damon A. King, a trial attorney with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the United States Department of Justice, who presented the case to the grand jury, indicated that the law provides that Zicari and Romano face a maximum total sentence of fifty (50) years in prison, a fine of \$2,500,000, or both. Extreme Associates, Inc. faces a maximum total sentence of a term of probation of fifty (50) years and a fine of \$5,000,000. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed would be based upon the seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

The United States is also seeking forfeiture of the obscene films charged in the indictment, all gross profits from the distribution of the films, and all property used to facilitate the charged obscenity crimes, including the internet domain name, "extremeassociates.com."

Today's indictment marks an important step in the Department of Justice's strategy for attacking the proliferation of adult obscenity. In the coming months, several more significant

prosecutions are expected against major purveyors and producers of adult obscenity.

The United States Postal Inspection Service and the Pornography Unit of the Los Angeles Police Department's Organized Crime and Vice Division conducted the investigation leading to the indictment in this case.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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